

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00765 152303Z

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2966

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DEPT PLEASE PASS LESTER SHUBIN/LEAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, SNAR, CA

SUBJECT: TRAINING FILM - AUTOPSIES

1. THIS MESSAGE CONFIRMS AND AMPLIFIES TELECON MARCH 13 CONCERNING AVAILABILITY TRAINING FILM ON SUBJECT OF AUTOPSIES. ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HAVE FOR YEARS USED MORE OR LESS STANDARD AUTOPSY FILMS TO TRAIN ALL RECRUITS IN THE DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AT AUTOPSIES WHERE DEATH IS DUE TO KNOWN OR SUSPECTED CRIMINAL ACTS. TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN TO ACCOMPANY SHOWING OF FILM MADE PRIMARILY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS OR CORONERS BY RUNNING COMMENTARY GIVEN BY EXPERIENCED ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. IN COURSE OF ROUTINE REVIEW OF TRAINING MATERIAL USED AT RCMP RECRUIT TRAINING CENTER (DEPOT DIVISION, REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN), HEADQUARTERS TRAINING BRANCH HAS SCREENED A NUMBER OF THE MORE RECENT AUTOPSY FILMS AVAILABLE HERE AND CONCLUDED THAT ALTHOUGH MOST ARE EXCELLENT FROM THE MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC POINT OF VIEW, NONE EMPHASIZE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASPECT TO THE EXTENT THAT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR AN IDEAL RECRUIT TRAINING FILM.

2. IDEAL FILM FOR PURPOSE WOULD BEGIN WITH DELIVERY OF CORPSE TO MORGUE AND PROCEED THROUGH EXAMINATION OF EFFECTS, CLOTHING, AND EXTERIOR APPEARANCES TO ACTUAL AUTOPSIES COVERING A RANGE OF CASES WHERE THE KNOWN OR SUSPECTED CAUSE OF DEATH WAS (A) GUNSHOT, (B) SHARP INSTRUMENTS, (C) STRANGULATION, UNCLASSIFIED

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(D) POISONING, (E) CRIMINAL ASSAULT, (F) RAPE, AND ANY COM-

BINATION OF FOREGOING CAUSES, AND IF POSSIBLE (G) KNOWN AND UNKNOWN DRUG OVERDOSES. EMPHASIS AND COMMENTARY BEFORE, DURING AND AT CLOSE OF FILM WOULD BE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TO DUTIES OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN EACH PHASE, THE COLLECTION PACKAGING AND SHIPMENT TO FORENSIC LABORATORY OF EXHIBITS AND HOW TO WORK WITH THE CORONER OR OTHER MEDICAL AUTHORITY DURING COURSE OF AUTOPSY. ENTIRE FILM WOULD BE FIRMLY EMBEDDED IN INVESTIGATIONAL CONTEXT.

3. ACTIONS REQUESTED: (A) EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED IF LEAA OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN US HAS OR IS MAKING TRAINING FILM OF THIS NATURE, (B) IF SO, COULD RCMP OBTAIN LOAN COPY FOR SCREENING WITH VIEW TO POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF COPY FOR THEIR USE? (C) IF NOT, WOULD LEAA OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY BE INTERESTED IN COLLABORATING WITH RCMP IN PREPARATION OF FILM OF THIS TYPE WHICH COULD THEN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY BROAD SPECTRUM OF NORTH AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES?
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